

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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61

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /073 W

----- 082481

R 021650Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2694

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 2718

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, DM, NI, GH, IV

SUBJECT: PRESSURE ON DAHOMEAN GOVERNMENT TO CUMMUTE DEATH  
SENTENCES

REF: COTONOU'S 362 AND 353

1. EMBASSY ABIDJAN FOUND IT CURIOUS THAT THERE WAS NO REPORTED  
EFFORT BY PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, THE "DOYEN" OF THE ENTENTE  
CHIEFS OF STATE, TO URGE KEREKOU TO COMMUTE DEATH SENTENCES PRO-  
NOUNCED IN CONNECTION WITH ATTEMPTED COUP. DISCUSSION WITH PAPAL  
NUNCIO, MGR. BRUNO WUESTENBERG, CLARIFIES THIS POINT.

2. PAPAL NUNCIO SAID THAT UPON LEARNING OF DEATH SENTENCES, HE  
APPROACHED PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY TO ASK FOR ASSISTANCE SINCE  
ONE OF CONDEMNED IS A PRIEST. HOUPHOUET REPORTEDLY  
SAID THAT DIRECT INTERVENTION ON HIS PART WOULD DO NO GOOD SINCE  
"KEREKOU WOULD DO THE OPPOSITE OF ANYTHING I ASKED HIM TO DO."

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HOWEVER, HOUPHOUET DID PROMISE THAT HE WOULD TELEPHONE CHIEFS

OF STATE OF NIGERIA, GHANA, AND TOGO AND ASK THEM TO INTERCEDE.

3. WHILE NOT WISHING TO OVERPLAY PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET'S ROLE,  
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT HIS BEHIND-THE-SCENE ACTIVITIES HAVE, TO SOME  
DEGREE, BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EFFORTS TO COMMUTE THE DEATH  
SENTENCES.

SMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERVENTION, CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, POLITICAL PRISONERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ABIDJA02718  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750115-0999  
**From:** ABIDJAN  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 COTONOU'S 362, 75 AND 353  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESSURE ON DAHOMEAN GOVERNMENT TO CUMMUTE DEATH SENTENCES  
**TAGS:** PINS, PFOR, DM, NI, GH, IV  
**To:** STATE COTONOU  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006